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ABSTRACT

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) is a federally funded program inaugurated in 1966 to serve as the nation's archive of important education documents. ERIC clearinghouses identify, select, and prepare entries describing education-related materials for the ERIC database; provide information in response to mail, telephone, and electronic requests as part of the AskERIC service; conduct education-related workshops; and publish numerous hard-copy and electronic resources. One of 16 ERIC clearinghouses, the ERIC Clearinghouse on Counseling and Student Services (ERIC/CASS) serves counseling and student professionals as well as parents who have an interest in personal and social factors that affect learning and development. ERIC/CASS has developed virtual libraries to provide online access to full-text documents on topics within its scope. In addition to a virtual library of career development resources developed with the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC), virtual libraries developed in 1997 include: (1) Learning and Achievement; (2) Substance Abuse; (3) School Violence; (4) School-to-Work Transition; and (5) Multiculturalism, Diversity, and Pluralism. To make the libraries easy to search, documents are cross-referenced and can be accessed through four categories: Subject Area, Population, Resources for Parents, and NOICC Resources. (A virtual libraries categories and Web addresses are appended.) (LPP)

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ERIC/CASS Virtual Libraries:

Online Resources for Parents, Teachers, and Counselors

Garry R. Walz & Jeanne C. Bleuer ■

Abstract

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) is a federally funded program that was inaugurated in 1966 to serve as the nation's archive of important education documents. ERIC clearinghouses identify, select, and prepare entries describing education-related materials for the ERIC database; provide information in response to mail, telephone, and electronic requests as part of the AskERIC service; conduct education-related workshops; and publish numerous hard-copy and electronic resources. One of 16 ERIC clearinghouses, the ERIC Clearinghouse on Counseling and Student Services (ERIC/CASS) serves counseling and student professionals as well as parents who have an interest in personal and social factors that affect learning and development. ERIC/CASS has developed virtual libraries to provide online access to full-text documents on topics within its scope. In addition to a virtual library of career development resources developed with the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC), virtual libraries developed in 1997 include: (1) Learning and Achievement; (2) Substance Abuse; (3) School Violence; (4) School-to-Work Transition; and (5) Multiculturalism, Diversity, and Pluralism. To make the libraries easy to search, documents are cross-referenced and can be accessed through four categories: Subject Area, Population, Resources for Parents, and NOICC Resources. ■

Introduction

As the developer of the world's largest and most frequently used education database and a pioneering leader in offering an Internet-based question-answering service, ERIC—the Educational Resources Information Center—is ideally suited to take leadership in the development of online virtual libraries. The virtual libraries described in this paper provide users with immediate, well-organized access to the full-text of hundreds of useful articles and documents on topics of high interest not only to education and counseling professionals but also to parents, students, and the general public.

What Is ERIC?

ERIC is a federally funded program that was inaugurated in 1966 to serve as the nation's archive of important education documents. Over the years, the role of ERIC has expanded to incorporate not only the collection and storage of education-related information but also the generation of new information through publications and newsletters, the dissemination of information through question-answering services, and the provision of training in the use of information through workshops and conference presentations.

ERIC currently consists of a network of 16 subject-specific clearinghouses, 10 adjunct clearinghouses, and 4 supporting service components. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, and is administered by the National Library of Education.

What Resources Does ERIC Offer?

- Access to "fugitive" documents such as research reports, curriculum guides, and conference papers through *Resources in Education* (RIE) and the ERIC microfiche collection.
- Access to citations and annotations of articles from more than 900 education-related journals through the *Current Index to Journals in Education*.

PS 027189

- Question-answering services via toll-free phone numbers, fax, mail, e-mail, and in-person visits to clearinghouses and professional conference exhibits.
- Skill-building workshops on topics of high critical need and interest.
- Scope-specific publications that meet the information needs of each clearinghouse's audience.
- Opportunities for education professionals as well as parents and the general public to share their ideas, products, and research with one another through submission of documents to the ERIC database or participation in listservs.

How Accessible Are ERIC Resources?

- The ERIC database is available in print, online, and CD-ROM versions.
- ERIC searching products and services are offered by four private online database vendors and five CD-ROM vendors.
- ERIC can be searched on the Internet at several ERIC Web sites.
- Access to ERIC microfiche and publications is provided by more than 1,000 institutions in 27 countries.
- An electronic question-answering service is provided by AskERIC.
- ERIC Web sites provide up-to-date information on ERIC and ERIC clearinghouse services and activities.

What Is ERIC/CASS?

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Counseling and Student Services (ERIC/CASS) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) is one of the original ERIC clearinghouses established in 1966. ERIC/CASS is the ERIC clearinghouse that serves counseling and student services professionals as well as parents and others who have an interest in personal and social factors that affect learning and development. Examples of topics addressed by ERIC/CASS include drugs, self-efficacy, conflict resolution, abuse, equity, life/career planning, and family functioning.

ERIC/CASS Virtual Libraries

During the past 2 years, ERIC/CASS has undertaken a special initiative to develop several online virtual libraries. Each virtual library is designed to provide users with online access to an extensive array of full-text documents on a topic of current high interest or critical concern.

Advantages of a Virtual Library

- Ease of accessibility.
- Low cost.
- As intensive or extensive as desired.
- Easy to update and expand.
- Minimal hassle due to loss or non-return of borrowed items.

Disadvantages of a Virtual Library

- Sometimes not as accessible or portable as libraries composed of "dead tree" (paper copy) items.
- Potentially intimidating to "non-techy" types.
- Can leave people feeling bereft at the lack of the feel and heft of a real book.
- May appear to be difficult to scan for general impressions or skim for specific items.
- Under the mantle of the Internet, may acquire an unwarranted reputation for objectivity and accuracy.

The ERIC/CASS–NOICC Virtual Library of Career Development Resources

The first virtual library developed by ERIC/CASS was sponsored and funded by the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC) through a grant from its Career Development Training Institute (CDTI) program. With valuable input from NOICC's Executive Director, Dr. Juliette Lester, and the North Carolina State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee Director, Nancy MacCormac, ERIC/CASS staff collected, reviewed, scanned, and converted to HTML hundreds of useful ERIC documents, ERIC Digests, NOICC publications, and other non-copyrighted materials.

In addition to the input of existing materials, ERIC/CASS's Virtual Library Webmaster, Rob Bohall, developed numerous links to other relevant Web sites, and ERIC/CASS Director, Dr. Garry Walz, developed a set of frequently asked questions and answers of special interest to parents.

To make the library easy to search, documents are cross-referenced and can be accessed through four categories: Subject Area, Population, Resources for Parents, and NOICC Resources. In addition to the full text of several items in each area, an annotated bibliography of other relevant resources is provided.

ERIC/CASS Virtual Libraries: New for 1997

Based on the success and positive feedback on the ERIC/CASS–NOICC Virtual Library of Career Development Resources, ERIC/CASS, through special project funding from ERIC, developed five more virtual libraries during the first 6 months of 1997. They are:

- Learning and Achievement
- Substance Abuse
- School Violence
- School-to-Work Transition
- Multiculturalism, Diversity, and Pluralism

These five new libraries were modeled after the career development library in that they provide user-friendly cross-references to documents, links to other relevant Web sites, and annotated bibliographies of additional resources. Lists of the specific topics covered in all six virtual libraries are provided in Appendix A, and a summary of URLs to access each of the libraries is provided in Appendix B.

Coming in 1998

ERIC/CASS is currently collecting and organizing resources for six more virtual libraries to be ready for public access by June of 1998. They include:

- Conflict Resolution
- Depression and Suicide
- Gangs
- Bullying
- Juvenile Boot Camps
- Assessment in Counseling and Therapy

APPENDIX A

Virtual Library Categories

- **Career Development Virtual Library**
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/career/index.htm

Subject Areas

Computerized Guidance and Information
School-to-Work Transition
Assessment and Portfolios
One-Stop Career Centers
Comprehensive Career Development
Career Counseling Interventions
Program Evaluation
Labor Market Trends and Information
Staff Development and Training

Specific Populations

Adults
College Students
Ethnic Groups
K–12 Students
Non-Employed
Out-of-School Youths
Persons with Disabilities
Women

Job Search Sites

America's Job Bank
America's Talent Bank
Canada Work Network
Career Magazine
Career Path
E-Span
JobBank USA
JOBTRAK
The Monster Board
Online Career Center

Resources for Parents

Career Exploration and Decision-Making
College Selection and Financial Aid
Employment Bound Youth
Employability Skills
Frequently Asked Questions
Job-Seeking Skills
Related Organizations
Training Options
Work-Based Learning

NOICC Resources
- Links to SOICC's
- National Career Development Guidelines
- NOICC Occasional Papers
- Products and Services

Reference Shelf
- Index of On-Site Documents
- Virtual Library FAQs
- Index of On-Site ERIC Digests
- Lists of Links: Careers, Labor Market
- New Acquisitions
- User Survey
- Virtual Library FAQ's

- **Cultural Diversity Virtual Library**
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/diverse/index.htm

Student Level
- Early Childhood and Elementary
- Secondary
- Higher Education
- Adult Education

Ethnic Groups
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- Native American

Practitioner Role
- Administrators
- Counselors
- Teachers

Special Needs Students
- Gay/Lesbian
- Limited English Proficient
- Migrant Students
- Students with Disabilities

Resources for Parents
- Family Influence on Students
- Helping Plan for the Future
- Parent/School Relationship

Special Topics
- Assessment
- Bilingual Education and ESL
- Discrimination in Education
- Promising Programs

- **School-to-Work Transition Virtual Library**
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/stw_tran/index.htm

Student Level
- Elementary
- Secondary
- College/Postsecondary

Effective Programs
- Creating and Evaluating Programs
- Current Issues
- Employers and STW
- Successful Practices

Practitioner Role
- Administrators
- Counselors
- Teachers

Special Topics
- Career Development
- Legislation and Policy
- Performance Standards
- Special Needs Students

Resources for Parents
- Family Influence
- Parental Involvement
- School-To-Work Basics

- **Substance Abuse in Education Virtual Library**
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/substnce/index.htm

Student Level
- Elementary
- Secondary
- College/Postsecondary

Specific Substances
- Alcohol
- Illegal Drugs
- Steroids
- Tobacco

Practitioner Role
- Administrators
- Counselors
- Teachers

Resources for Parents
- Communication
- Treatment
- Prevention
- Signs of Abuse

Special Topics
- Peer Counseling
- Pre-Natal Exposure
- Promising Programs
- Rehabilitation

- **Student Learning and Achievement Virtual Library**
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/achieve/index.htm

Student Level
- Elementary
- Secondary
- College/Postsecondary

Special Needs Students
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Ethnic Minorities
- Gifted and Talented
- Students with Disabilities

Practitioner Role
- Administrators
- Counselors
- Teachers

Resources for Parents
- Specific Curriculum Areas
- Improving Academic Skills
- Family Impact
- Testing and Grades

Special Topics
- Student Motivation
- Alternative School Searches
- Career Planning

- **School Violence Virtual Library**
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/violence/index.htm

Student Level
- Elementary
- Secondary
- College/Postsecondary

School Safety
- Punishment and Intervention
- School Environment
- Security Measures
- Violence Policy

Practitioner Role
- Administrators
- Counselors
- Teachers

Resources for Parents
- Avoiding Violence
- Dealing with Violent Children
- Family Influence
- Parent/School Relationship

Special Topics
- Corporal Punishment
- Crisis Intervention
- Guns
- Media Impact

APPENDIX B

Virtual Library URLs

- Career Development
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/career/index.htm
- Cultural Diversity
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/diverse/index.htm
- School-to-Work Transition
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/stw_tran/index.htm
- School Violence
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/violence/index.htm
- Student Learning and Achievement
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/achieve/index.htm
- Substance Abuse
  http://www.uncg.edu/edu/ericcass/substnce/index.htm

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